

475

Romulus Augustulus is proclaimed Western Roman Emperor.

683

During the Siege of Mecca, the **Kaaba** catches fire and is burned down.

802

Empress **Irene** is deposed and banished to Lesbos. Conspirators place Nikephoros, the minister of finance, on the Byzantine throne.



1517

Protestant Reformation: Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

Barbarians are within

There comes a moment, when the barbarian is within, to draw a line, to say enough, to speak out, to make a stand whatever the cost.

is a man of fiendish energy and malicious intuitions who gets the blood up by appealing to the barbarian in us all. He says he wants to make the Empire great again, but all he really wants to do is to loot it on the way down. His Republican cronies enable him because their love of power blinds them to the contagion they propagate.

The barbarian saviour loves to see a reporter body-slammed, to parade his ignorance, to strut his lies, to broadcast his bigotry, to empower rich Middle Eastern murderers, to humiliate a woman traumatised by sexual assault, to incite his followers to violence, to sap civilisation, to toy with nuclear Armageddon as a distraction from his scam.

The barbarian game is clear: to blind Americans to the fact that the United States is a self-gov-

erning enterprise. To say government is evil, government is terrible, bad government is what Democrats do — so just leave it to us! In short, the objective is to outlast us, and to eviscerate the institutions that make us, us. But no! We Americans are self-governing, and in the face of malevolent and feckless and corrupt people, there are better options. That is what the vote on Nov. 6 is about.

In Coetzee's novel, the magistrate encounters a zealous officer, Colonel Joll, who has been dispatched to the frontier to crush the barbarians. Joll is a torturer, a man of implacable certainties, blinding "barbarian" prisoners, crushing their feet. The magistrate-narrator strives to maintain a certain civility in his exchanges with Joll, but grows disgusted:

"Throughout a trying period he and I have managed to behave towards each other like civilised people. All my life I have believed in civilised behaviour; on this occasion, however, I cannot deny it, the memory leaves me sick with myself."

There comes a moment, when the barbarian is within, to draw a line, to say enough, to speak out, to make a stand whatever the cost. The desperation of mortality can also yield the lucidity of courage.

(Roger Cohen is a columnist with The New York Times.)

(In collaboration with New York Times)

chosen to blow up the whole place. He set about his task with vigour.

What can be said at this point about the self-styled saviour? He

to my family?

now hold

pictures of wanted women and men. Thank you, military, for not killing her.

Over the years, we heard rumours about what happened to my father; that he had been killed while being tortured, that his body had been cut up into pieces. But it wasn't until 2014, when former agents and officers who witnessed his torture testified to the Public Prosecutor's Office, that we finally had an official account of what happened.

He was taken to DOI-CODI in Rio de Janeiro, where he was tortured. He died less than 48 hours after he was arrested. The prosecutor said the military's intention was to "inflict acute physical and mental suffering, in order to intimidate him and obtain information about the recipients of the letters and documents that were sent to him." A former army colonel, Paulo Malhães, said that he received an army order in 1973 to dig up and dispose of my father's remains. We'll never know what he did with them. I never did understand why my sister and my mother were also arrested. To be tortured with him, if he did not speak?

After the dictatorship ended

From the dictatorship we learned the importance of democracy, tolerance and the rule of law. Brazilians should not be fooled.

In 1988, a new Brazilian constitution, known as the Citizen Constitution, was approved. It afforded territorial rights to indigenous peoples and the quilombolas, who are the descendants of Afro-Brazilian slaves. It also extended protections to other minorities, and condemned "prejudice of origin, race, sex, colour, age and any other forms of discrimination." But now Brazil seems poised to return to its dark past.

In the lead-up to this election, there's been an increase in violence and homophobia fuelled by Bolsonaro's misogynistic, racist,

anti-LGBT and anti-democratic views. The Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalists registered more than 130 cases of violence against journalists in 2018. Swastikas have been painted on walls all over the city. Grindr, the world's largest social networking app for gay men, sent an in-app safety reminder message to Brazilian users that said: "Following the recent election, members of the Grindr community raised concerns about the increased risk of violence. Take the necessary steps to stay safe this week."

From the dictatorship we learned the importance of democracy, tolerance and the rule of law. Brazilians should not be fooled. Bolsonaro is not the saviour our country needs. I thought that the life of my father and the suffering of my family and of many others was an essential chapter to help Brazil reflect and evolve. We never imagined that our struggle and pain would serve no purpose. That our struggle for the right to vote would be used to turn everything back. Pray for us.

(Marcelo Paiva is a writer and columnist for the newspaper O Estado de S. Paulo.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



A warm welcome to the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Giuseppe Conte in India. I look forward to meeting him and to participate together at the Tech Summit later today. @GiuseppeConteIT

@narendramodi

02



Sarah Sanders says the president got elected by an overwhelming majority of 63 million Americans. He lost the popular vote by three million.

@jdawsey1

03



Where is Advani ji? Surprisingly, media never asks his opinion/reaction on the ongoing #Ram-MandirHearing debate. It seems the octogenarian leader, who started the Ram Janambhoomi movement in 1990 is forgotten by both the BJP and the media.

@sadhavi

04



The shrinking caravan of refugees isn't a threat to the country or the constitutional order. A president who tries to end birthright citizenship by executive order is.

@BillKristol

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Wide Angle

The Sherlock Holmes Phenomenon



JOEL INDRUPATI

Who is C Auguste Dupin? The name won't ring a bell easily because hardly anyone knows this fictional character created by Edgar Allan Poe.

Dupin had actually made his first appearance in Poe's 1841 book "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", generally considered the first real detective fiction in English literature.

Poe created the character Dupin even before the word 'detective' had been coined. Or, so I heard.

However, when I curiously consulted the online etymology dictionary, I found out that in 1828, though not popular, the term 'detective police' was already in use in some British police documents. And it referred to those "fitted for or skilled in detecting".

But that was just 13 years before 'Detective' Dupin made his first appearance. In a series of books, this sleuth or 'detective' soon endeared himself to English readers with his skillful analysis of crime scenes.

His evaluation of the sequence of events and the possible motives of suspects, before finally revealing the real criminal — in the climax of the book — from a set of characters which readers are led to suspect, became a model-framework for many detective stories.

"Without Edgar Allan Poe, We Wouldn't Have Sherlock Holmes" is, in fact, the title of a Smithsonian website article.

Today, 31 October, is the day on which 'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was first published in 1892.

On this 126th anniversary of the great fictional detective's arrival, therefore, I thought it appropriate to look back at Holmes and a few other fictional detectives.

I dislike seeing Dr Watson browsing the Internet, and I dislike Sherlock Holmes walking past the London Eye. But what can I do?



The pipe-smoking, cloth-capped, magnifying-glass-wielding Sherlock Holmes, of 221B Bakers Street in London, captured readers as he captured criminals.

His mystery-unravelling skills are cogently narrated to us by his companion Dr Watson who often gets reminded that elementary escapes him.

Personally, I had graduated to Sherlock Holmes' books, only in college. But my mind was already fertile for these books, thanks to my devouring of Enid Blyton's stories of 'Five Find-Outers', a series of mystery-books I'd loved as a middle-school kid.

My particular fascination for one of the characters, Fatty (real name, Frederick Algernon Trotteville) made me dream that I would become a detective like him.

And once I got introduced to Agatha Christie's fictional detectives 'Hercule Poirot' and 'Miss Marple' in other books, my dream got reinforced. And I seriously felt I had found my calling. However, fortunately, or unfortunately, it was a short-lived desire.

Father Brown (created by G K Chesterton), Jack Reacher (Lee Child), Inspector Maigret (Georges Simenon), V I Warshawski (Sara Paretsky), Mike Hammer (Mickey Spillane) and even Nancy Drew (Edward Stratemeyer) are all great fictional detectives.

Precious Ramotswa (created by Alexander McCall Smith), who runs the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency in Botswana, solves many crimes too.

Almost all these detective characters came to life in movies and TV series, and changed the face of whodunits. Especially because, young people and millennials would rather watch, than read.

My two daughters now watch Sherlock Holmes' BBC TV series. No. Not those with Jeremy Irons in it, but those with Benedict Cumberbatch. And though I feel they should be reading instead of watching, I give in, and join them.

I find the setting of the series, in current day London, very odd. I dislike seeing Dr Watson browsing the Internet, and I dislike Sherlock Holmes walking past the London Eye. But what can I do?

So, much to their dismay, I just take pride in explaining to them that 'A Study in Pink' was originally 'A Study in Scarlet'. And that 'A Scandal in Belgravia' was actually 'A Scandal in Bohemia'.

But, they don't care. They feel the adventures of their Sherlock Holmes is better than mine.